



VIA ECFS

March 7, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554
Attn: Wireline Competition Bureau

Re: WC Docket No. 10-90
Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest – Rate-of-Return Areas
Mt Horeb Telephone Company

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Mt Horeb Telephone Company hereby expresses interest in participating in the Commission's rural broadband experiments to provide robust, scalable high-speed broadband to un-served high-cost areas with additional Connect America funding. Mt Horeb Telephone Company is a rate-of-return incumbent local exchange carrier serving rural areas of Wisconsin, and proposes deployment as follows.

Proposed Service Area

The Company proposes to upgrade underserved broadband to premises within the regulated service territory which includes areas.

Proposed Broadband Service

Voice and Broadband services with broadband transmission speeds of 50 Mbps downstream 5 upstream provided over fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) and fixed wireless where appropriate.

Funding

Mt Horeb Telephone Company estimates construction costs to be a total of \$15 million. The Company requests 85% of the cost to deliver FTTH in rural areas of our exchange, in funding from Connect America Funds. This project would be completed over a four year time frame; therefore we would request equal disbursement over this period. This is the un-glaciated portion of Wisconsin and construction is very difficult because of the hard rock, hilly terrain and limited construction season.

The Company's copper plant needs to be replaced. There is broadband provided in the Company's rural service area today, but the plant in the rural areas is starting to deteriorate. It was built many years ago with the help of the RUS loan program and USF support. With fewer people taking landlines and no federal support, there is no economic justification to rebuild

these locations. The funding that the Company is seeking will ensure these customers are not left behind in the IP transition.

Our local school district has initiated "Bring your own device" program; starting in seventh grade students use their own device (tablet, laptop, etc...) to connect to the internet and learn, it will be imperative that these students have the same access to the internet when they are home, as they have at school.

Mt Horeb Telephone Company appreciates the opportunity to provide this non-binding expression of interest. Please contact the undersigned with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Klarer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Klarer
General Manager
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